

Page 16, line 24, change "are" to --is--.

Page 19, line 15, change "preferably" to --preferable--;
line 18, change "absorbace" to --absorbance--.

Page 21, line 2, change "using by" to --by using--;
line 20, after may, insert --be--.

Page 24, line 15, change "power" to --powder--.

Page 25, line 1, change "spunn" to --spun--.

Page 26, line 34, change "cated" to --coated--.

Page 27, line 1, change "hydoquinone" to --hydroquinone--;
line 9, change "power" to --powder--.

REMARKS

Claims 1-23 are pending. Claims 18-23 stand withdrawn from further consideration as being directed to a non-elected invention. The specification is amended hereby to correct minor informalities.

As a preliminary matter, it is noted that the Office Action indicated Form PTO-948 as an attachment. However, a copy of Form PTO-948 was not received. Accordingly, a copy of Form PTO-948 is requested.

Claims 1-17 were rejected under 35 USC §103(a) as being unpatentable over JP 09-0906737 (Nozaki et al). Favorable reconsideration of this rejection is earnestly solicited.

The present application names two inventors which are among the inventors of Nozaki et al. In addition, the present specification discusses a report by Nozaki et al concerning a resist using mevalonic lactone.

In Nozaki et al, a very high sensitivity is achieved as a result of easy elimination of the lactone side chain from the polymer. Such an elimination of the lactone side chain causes formation of carboxylic acid.

Contrary to the mechanism of Nozaki et al, the present invention achieves the desired high photosensitivity as a result of the ring-opening reaction of the five-membered ring disclosed at page 17, line 5. It should be noted that the five-membered lactone of the present invention does not cause the elimination reaction, as it makes a bonding with the mevalonic lactone at the position which is different when counted from the position of the carboxyl carbon atom.

Thus, the function of the polymer compound of the present invention is inherently different and cannot be predicted from Nozaki et al.

Further, the use of the five-membered ring lactone is advantageous with regard to the cost of the source material and also with regard to the cost of the synthesis reaction, which can be conducted under a moderate condition.

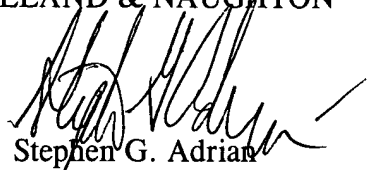
For at least the foregoing reasons, the claimed invention distinguishes over the cited art and defines patentable subject matter. Favorable reconsideration is earnestly solicited.

Should the Examiner deem that any further action by applicants would be desirable to place the application in condition for allowance, the Examiner is encouraged to telephone applicants' undersigned attorney.

In the event that this paper is not timely filed, applicants hereby petition for an appropriate extension of time. The fee for any such extension may be charged to our Deposit Account No. 01-2340.

Respectfully submitted,

ARMSTRONG, WESTERMAN, HATTORI,
McLELAND & NAUGHTON

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Stephen G. Adrian", is written over the firm name.

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